

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 /071 W
-----053728 181952Z /50

R 171520Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5160
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0979

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHS CHARGE U.S. TRYING TO LEGALIZE INTERFERENCE
IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. AS THE CZECHOSLOVAK APPROACH TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE BEGAN
TO TAKE SHAPE LAST YEAR, IN THE WAKE OF CHARTER 77, ONE OF ITS
THEMES WAS THE CHARGE THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS "INTERFERING
IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" BY PURSUING A POLICY OF OUTSPOKEN HUMAN
RIGHTS CHAMPIONSHIP. AT BELGRADE THE CZECHS, UNDER STRONG
CRITICISM FROM NATO AND NEUTRAL COUNTRIES FOR THEIR SHABBY
HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, CHARGED THAT THE UNITED STATES
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WAS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A LEGAL BASIS FOR WHAT THE CZECHS
VIEWED AS "INTERFERENCE." THIS CHARGE BECAME A
LEITMOTIF OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK POSITION, AND HAS NOW BEEN
ECHOED IN PRAGUE'S DAILY PRESS.

2. RUDE PRAVO APRIL 15 CARRIES A STORY FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT
LEGISLATION PROPOSED IN THE HOUSE BY REPRESENTATIVES

FASCELL AND FRASER AND IN THE SENATE BY SENATORS PELL AND CLARK
WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH AN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS TO
"CONTRIBUTE TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES."
RUDE PRAVO TAKES THIS AS EVIDENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES "OBVIOUSLY
INTENDS TO PROVIDE A LEGAL BASIS FOR ITS
POLICY OF INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES."
ARTICLE NOTES WITH OBVIOUS DISAPPROVAL THAT INSTITUTE WILL
"CONTRIBUTE TO THE ISSUANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF BOOKS, ARTICLES
AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS ABROAD THAT ARE BENNED ON POLITICAL
GROUNDS."

DECONTROLLED AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRAGUE00979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780166-0386
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780449/aaaabpik.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d4e88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2943365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHS CHARGE U.S. TRYING TO LEGALIZE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS
TAGS: SHUM, CZ, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d4e88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014